

Cultural Trust Eligibility

Applicants: Any person, association, group, or a governmental agency may submit an application for funding.

All applications must, however, be officially sponsored by a governmental entity. This could be Montana state, county, city, town or Indian tribal governments. Examples of government sponsors are county art or historical museums, public libraries, public educational institutions or school districts, state agencies, city arts commissions, or parks and recreation departments, and tribal cultural or education committees. Documentation of governmental status is required.

The government sponsor is the official applicant. It may itself seek funds, or it may sponsor the proposals of other persons, organizations, associations or coalitions. It must have accounting and financial services available and must bear ultimate legal and fiscal responsibility for the application, if funded.

NOTE: It is the responsibility of those interested in developing proposals for Cultural and Aesthetic Project grants to negotiate with the government sponsor to make the application. The Montana Arts Council will help identify an appropriate government sponsor upon request.

Non-profit organizations with statewide programs and/or services, or those serving a major region of the state or with a statewide arts and cultural constituency, may ask the Montana Arts Council to serve as their governing unit and fiscal agent. Organizations should not assume the Montana Arts Council will serve this role. This service must be requested and approved in writing before submission of application.

Why do applications require a government sponsor?

When the Cultural Trust was originated in the mid-70s, the Legislature determined that government agencies or governmental departments should provide accounting and financial services to oversee these funds once granted to local organizations throughout Montana. Over the years, these governmental agencies have become more connected with what is happening on the local cultural scene and understand how valuable it is to the community and state.

What are the obligations and responsibilities of the government sponsor?

These are itemized on the signature page of the grant application form. Please see page 14. It states that the government sponsor will provide financial and accounting services and be fiscally and legally responsible for the completion of the application.

Please contact your government sponsor well in advance of the application deadline in order to give them time to review the application and put it on their meeting agenda if required for approval so applications can be submitted on time.

Matching and Other Requirements

Matching Funds: These are funds other than Cultural and Aesthetic Project grants allocated or received by the grantee during the two fiscal years of the grant period and used exclusively for the application receiving Cultural and Aesthetic Project grant funds. Documentation that matching funds will actually be received within the grant period, must be received by June 30, 2012.

Special Projects under \$4,500, Special Projects and Operational Support: Each grant dollar is matched with one dollar in cash or in-kind goods and services.

Capital Expenditures: Each dollar in grants is matched with three dollars in cash or in-kind goods and services.